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GSU View

University Newsletters

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Office of Public Affairs

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News and Events

Tornado Season

The GSU community is reminded that tornado season is upon us. According to the National Weather Service, tornadic activity is most prevalent between March and June.

In the event of a tornado, the campus community will be informed via the hallway fire alarm public address system and the Berbee interoffice telephone system. Once a tornado warning is issued on campus, all students, faculty, and staff must move to their nearest shelter area.

Please take note of tornado shelter areas throughout campus, which are indicated by red signs. Maps of all shelters are also available on the [Emergency Response website](#).

As with other emergencies, movement toward shelter areas will be facilitated by GSU's Emergency Volunteer Corps.



Still Time to Vote



There is still time for GSU students to vote for Student Senate representatives. The GSU Student Senate is the university's student voice. Elections continue through April 9.

To vote, registered GSU students should go to <https://eBallot.votenet.com/govst>. Students will use their last name and student ID to gain access to the voting ballots. Election results will be announced Monday, April 12.

2010 Candidates

Timothy Ackerman, CAS
Michael Coglianese, CAS
Jada Nettle, CAS
David A. Corcoran, CAS
Richard Culbreath, CAS
Lisa Wallace, COE
Chengwei Yu, CBPA
Andre Barnett, CBPA
Justin Kline, CBPA
Betty Campbell, IDSS
Brendan Hollandsworth, BOT
Dominique A. Taylor, IBHE

Legislative Guests

All faculty and staff are reminded that any GSU-related contact with elected officials should begin through the Office of Institutional Advancement. The university continues to support the active invitation of elected officials to campus for special events and activities, however, outreach to officials needs to be coordinated on a campus wide level.

Before contacting an elected official, please contact Joan Vaughan, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, at ext. 4977.

Spelunking for Science

Dr. Tim Gsell takes his microbiology students deep into the earth in search of scientific discoveries. Gsell and his students have travelled to caves in southern Illinois, Virginia, and Missouri to look for – and possibly discover scientific uses for – microbes that live in a world without light.

Dr. Gsell, an associate professor of microbiology, shows a visitor digital photos of a recent trip. The microbe hunters, dressed in hard hats and caving gear, wind their way through tight spaces while looking for water and sediment samples.

Finding samples is just the first step for Dr. Gsell's students as they learn how to unlock the secrets of microscopic creatures, and how they survive in their own environment. Back at GSU, students analyze the cellular structure of microbes to determine their genetic makeup and whether they have any scientific uses.

To analyze microbes, GSU students use complex instruments, some of which were purchased through a 2004 National Science Foundation grant. According to Dr. Gsell, the grant was designed to allow undergraduate students to use instruments like thermocyclers and DNA sequencers as part of their classroom studies.



“Previously, only advanced students, and those working in research, had access to this kind of equipment,” Dr. Gsell says. With the NSF grant, undergraduate microbiology students could use a state of the art laboratory facility as part of their regular coursework.

A quick primer on how lab analysis works: First, students amplify – or “grow” – a microbe sample's DNA fragments by using a thermocycler. Then, fragments are analyzed in a DNA sequencer. The DNA sequence of the sample, when complete, is emailed to the Ribosomal Database Project at Michigan State University, where a supercomputer matches its DNA characteristics to the hundreds of thousands of samples already on file.

Dr. Gsell and his Division of Science colleagues presented posters on how the grant has expanded opportunities for GSU undergraduates during conferences in 2008 and 2009, most recently at last year's American Society of Microbiology meeting.

Shake Your Moneymaker

GSU's Recreation and Fitness Center is offering two opportunities to put on your dancing shoes (or boots).

The popular Belly Dancing Class will be held on April 15, 21, 29, and May 6 and 13. The sessions will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Rec and Fitness Center.

The currently-running line dancing class has been extended through April 26. Workshops will meet on Mondays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria Annex.

Both classes cost only \$5 for students, \$15 for Rec and Fitness members, and \$25 for non-members. For more information, contact the Rec and Fitness Center at 708.534.4945.

Art on the Auction Block



The Friends of the GSU Library will be hosting a silent art auction in addition to their book sale on Tuesday, April 13, in the Hall of Honors. The auction will begin at 11 a.m. for Friends (noon for others) and end at 8 p.m. Original oil paintings, prints from renowned Navajo artist R.C. Gorman, a Native American print from Amado Peña, prints from Phyllis Rash Hughes and Cyndi Callog, and a Mariishka print will be auctioned. Photographs from Ray Hartl, Jerome Robbins, and Mel Katz will also be offered. Proceeds from the auction benefit the GSU Library.

CPA Visits Tinley

GSU's Center for Performing Arts continues its role of joining education with the arts by taking part in a community arts event on Saturday, May 8, at Andrew High School in Tinley Park. The event will offer children (grades K-8) an opportunity to experience an array of the creative and performing arts by means of presentations, interactions, stories, experiences, and hands-on activities.

The Center will present half hour sessions promoting its summer theatre camp. The sessions will feature interactive activities facilitated by actors from the Emerald City Theatre Company and The Center's own Jane Cox.

More information about the summer camp is available on [The Center's website](#).

Where's the Data?

The Profiles of Academic Majors Fall 2009 is now posted on the Institutional Research website. Each college section now begins with tables for all students in the college then continues with tables for levels within colleges and all degree programs in the college.

Also new on the Institutional Research website...

Included in the section "Other Reports" is the On campus Housing Survey 2009-10.

Also posted to the "Other Reports" is the final summary of GSU's 3-year experiment: Increasing Survey Response Rates: Combining Experimental Manipulations.

Peer Comparison Data - IPEDS Data Feedback Report is now available. This report compares data provided by GSU through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) to data for a similar group of institutions.

Enrollment Management Plan indicators have been added to the dashboard.

To view additional data available on the Internet, please visit the Institutional Research website. To provide feedback or ask questions, contact Linda Buyer or Kathy Miller.

Sharing Successes

The GSU Faculty Summer Institute, *Sharing Success*, will be held on Tuesday, June 15 and Wednesday, June 16.

Burks Oakley II from University of Illinois (Professor Emeritus) and David Gagnon from the University of Wisconsin, Madison will both speak at the institute.

An equally important aspect of the event is the active participation of GSU's own faculty members. A call for proposals has been issued, with a May 17 deadline. Faculty may either lead a panel session or give an individual presentation.

For more information, contact Jan Engle at ext. 3073.

